

Gay Couple Saves Homophobic Neighbor

Michael Jones/Change.org editor

Need any further proof that love always outlasts hate? [Check out this story from Birmingham (United Kingdom)](http://www.sundaymercury.net/news/midlands-news/2010/08/02/birmingham-gay-couple-save-life-of-man-who-abused-them-66331-26971409/), where a gay couple tormented by a neighbor's homophobic remarks -- end up saving his life from a deadly house fire.

The story comes from the Sunday Mercury, which had a chance to speak to the gay couple, Bryn and James Tudor. Turns out they're a pretty famous gay couple. In 2005, [they were the first gay couple in all of Birmingham to commit to each other in a civil partnership](http://www.queerty.com/birminghams-first-married-gays-james-and-brynn-tudor-save-the-life-of-their-neighborhood-harasser-20100802/).

But their marriage didn't please their neighbor, Baljit Koonar, none too much. For years, Koonar would taunt the gay couple with homophobic remarks, verbally harassing and bullying the Tudors.

"We had put up with his verbal abuse for years – it affects you every day," said Bryn Tudor. "But we did not want to give in to the bully.”

For Koonar's sake, it's a good thing this couple didn't move. Because had James and Bryn not been there on the night that Koonar's house caught on fire, who knows how this story would have turned out.

“I was sleeping when something woke me up at around 5a.m.,” explained Tudor, “I could smell smoke. I went outside and there was smoke billowing out of the next door neighbor’s house, and the family was on the roof."

And that's when this gay couple sprang into action. The couple, along with some help from other neighbors, grabbed a ladder and used it to get Koonar's family – Kooner, his wife, their two kids, and a grandmother -- off the roof of the burning house.

Kind of makes you think, right? The person you treat with homophobic, racist, or sexist remarks today-- may just end up being the same person who one day saves your life!